

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A guide wire comprising a distal end portion and a main body portion, wherein said main body portion includes a center layer comprising a first material, a surface layer comprising a second material and defining an outermost periphery of said main body portion, and an intermediate layer having a predetermined thickness and a predetermined length comprising a mixture of said first material and said second material, wherein the mixture of said first material and said second material in said intermediate layer has a decreased proportion of said first material toward said surface layer and an increased proportion of said second material toward said surface layer,

wherein a weight ratio of the first material to the second material in the material for forming the intermediate layer is in the range of 1:9 to 9:1,

wherein said main body portion has a structure in which said center layer, said intermediate layer, and said surface layer are provided in this order from a center of said main body portion toward ~~an exterior~~ the outermost periphery of said main body portion,

wherein said first material is a Ni-Ti based alloy, and

wherein said second material is a metallic material higher in rigidity than said Ni-Ti based alloy.

2. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein said distal end portion is formed of said first material, and is continuous with said center layer of said main body portion.

3. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 1, comprising an intermediate portion located between said distal end portion and said main body portion, wherein said intermediate portion comprises said center layer formed of said first material, and said surface layer formed of a mixture of said first material and said second material.

4. (Canceled) .

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein said second material is a stainless steel.

8. (Currently Amended) A guide wire comprising a distal end portion, a main body portion, and an intermediate portion located between said distal end portion and said main body portion,

wherein said intermediate portion includes a center layer comprising a first material, and a surface layer comprising a mixture of said first material and a second material, said surface layer covering said center layer and defining an outermost periphery of said intermediate portion,

and wherein said surface layer is decreased in a content of said first material toward an outer surface the outermost periphery of said intermediate portion

and increased in a content of said second material toward the ~~outer surface~~ outermost periphery of said intermediate portion such that said surface layer has gradient physical properties in a radial direction.

9. (Currently Amended) A guide wire comprising a distal end portion and a main body portion, wherein said main body portion includes a center layer comprising a first material, a surface layer comprising a second material, and an intermediate layer comprising a mixture of said first material and said second material, wherein said main body portion has a structure in which said center layer, said intermediate layer, and said surface layer are provided in this order from a center of said main body portion toward an ~~exterior~~ outermost periphery of said main body portion,

wherein said intermediate layer is increased stepwise or gradually in a content of said first material toward said center layer, and

wherein said first material is a first metallic material, said second material is a second metallic material higher in rigidity than said first metallic material, and said second metallic material is stainless steel.

10. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 8, wherein said second material is a material higher in rigidity than said first material.

11. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 8, wherein a content of the second material in said surface layer is increased stepwise or increased gradually toward the outer surface of said intermediate portion.

12. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein a weight ratio of the first material to the second material in the material for forming the intermediate layer is in the range of 3:7 to 7:3.

13. (Previously Presented) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein said main body portion is formed by a sintered body, said sintered body having said center layer, said surface layer, and said intermediate layer, wherein said center layer is formed by sintering said first material, said surface layer is formed by sintering said second material, and said intermediate layer is formed by sintering said mixture of said first material and said second material.

14. (Previously Presneted) A guide wire according to claim 1, wherein said main body portion is formed by a sintered body, said sintered body including said center layer, said surface layer, and said intermediate layer, wherein said center layer includes a sintered body of said first material, said surface layer includes a sintered body of said second material, and said intermediate layer includes a sintered body of said mixture of said first material and said second material.